

From: HO::WILLARD "MIKE WILLARD, (201) 573-2551" 20-JAN-1993 12:18
To: BALOGA
CC: EUSER:MBNETADMIN,WILLARD
Subj: PMSG 53 LOADED

ROUTE=ALL

*
* MB-NET ADMINISTRATIVE MESSAGE *
* JANUARY 20, 1993 *
* MESSAGE 53 *

91V-137

TO: ALL DEALER SERVICE MANAGERS
ALL DEALER SERVICE WRITERS

CC: MBNA REGIONAL EXECUTIVES
MBNA REGIONAL SERVICE/PARTS MANAGERS
MBNA FIELD PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: IMPORTANCE OF RECALL REPAIRS

***** IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION *****

AS YOU KNOW, WHEN THERE IS A RECALL, OWNERS ARE SENT A LETTER REQUESTING THAT THEY CONTACT A DEALER FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO HAVE THE RECALL WORK PERFORMED. UNFORTUNATELY, SOME OWNERS NEVER RESPOND TO THE RECALL LETTER FOR ANY NUMBER OF REASONS. SOMETIMES THE RECALL-AFFECTED CAR IS SOLD AND THE NEW OWNER NEVER SENDS IN THE CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP CARD TO US WHICH MEANS THE NEW OWNER MAY NOT RECEIVE THE RECALL NOTIFICATION IF WE CANNOT TRACK THE OWNER DOWN.

MERCEDES-BENZ OF NORTH AMERICA, INC. AND ITS AUTHORIZED DEALERS HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PERFORM RECALLS ON ALL AFFECTED MERCEDES-BENZ PASSENGER CARS IN A TIMELY AND EFFICIENT MANNER. SAFETY RELATED RECALLS ARE SPECIFIED WHEN THERE IS A DANGER OF PERSONAL INJURY IF THE RECALL WORK IS NOT PERFORMED. WE BELIEVE THAT YOU SHARE OUR CONCERN FOR THE SAFE OPERATION OF ALL MERCEDES-BENZ CARS AND WE BELIEVE THAT YOU DO YOUR BEST TO PERFORM RECALLS TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITIES.

THE 190 PARKING BRAKE RECALL (91-0913) INITIATED IN 1991 REQUIRES THAT THE HAND BRAKE GRIP ON AFFECTED CARS BE REPLACED TO ELIMINATE A WORST CASE SCENARIO THAT COULD POTENTIALLY ALLOW A CAR TO ROLL AWAY AND INJURE AN ADULT OR A CHILD IN THE ITS PATH.

ALTHOUGH WE ARE RELIEVED TO REPORT THAT NO INJURIES ARE KNOWN TO HAVE OCCURRED FROM THIS RECALL, WE ARE NOT HAPPY TO REPORT THAT ONLY 31% OF THE AFFECTED 190'S HAD THE RECALL WORK PERFORMED. A REMINDER POSTCARD IS IN PREPARATION BY MBNA.

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE, WE ASK THAT ALL DEALERS PLEASE BEGIN A POLICY IN WHICH ALL CARS BEING SERVICED ARE ROUTINELY CHECKED VIA MBNET FOR OPEN RECALLS. IF RECALL WORK IS NEEDED, PLEASE ADVISE THE OWNER AND COMPLETE THE WORK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. FOR YOUR SMALL INVESTMENT IN TIME, THE

SEP 4 1991

Mr. Harald Polz
Manager, Product Regulation
and Compliance
Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc.
P.O. Box 350
Montvale, NJ 07645-0350

NEF-111paw
91V-137

Dear Mr. Polz:

This acknowledges receipt of your Defect Information Report submitted in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports."

RECALL CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

NHTSA Recall Campaign ID Number: 91V-137
(Please refer to this number in all future correspondence.)

NHTSA Contact: Jonathan D. White, Chief Telephone: (202) 366-5227
Technical Analysis Branch

Date of Letter: August 19, 1991

Number Being Recalled: 96,541 Mercedes 1984 through 1988 Model 190 Series vehicles manufactured August 1983 through December 1987.

Defect: The parking brake lever release knob sticks in partial engage/release position due to binding in the grip.

This recall was the subject of Engineering Analysis, EA90-040, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

Although Mercedes believes that there is neither a safety-related defect nor an unreasonable risk to motor vehicle safety, this recall campaign should still be conducted according to the requirements under the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act and also within the specifications of the Code of Federal Regulations.

QUARTERLY STATUS REPORTS

The first quarterly status report for this campaign in accordance with Part 573.6 is required to be submitted within 25 working days after the close

CONCURRENCES	
RTG. SYMBOL	NEF-111
INITIALS/SIG	[Signature]
DATE	9-3-91
RTG. SYMBOL	
INITIALS/SIG	
DATE	
RTG. SYMBOL	
INITIALS/SIG	
DATE	
RTG. SYMBOL	
INITIALS/SIG	
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RTG. SYMBOL	
INITIALS/SIG	
DATE	

of the calendar quarter in which owner notification begins. For instance, the current calendar quarter ends on September 30, 1991, and the first quarterly report for recalls where owner notification begins in this quarter is due by November 4, 1991. Quarterly reports are due for the first 6 consecutive quarters once owner notification has begun. In the case where the recall appears to be completed, quarterly reporting is required until your company is notified otherwise by this office. Each report is due within 25 working days after the close of the respective quarter.

NOTIFICATION TO PURCHASERS

Notification to purchasers in accordance with Section 153 and 49 CFR Part 577, "Defect and Noncompliance Notification," should begin as soon as possible. A draft copy of the notification documents may be submitted to this office by telefax (FAX: 202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing. Federal Regulation 49 CFR Part 573.5(c)(9), specifies that a representative copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate to the defect or noncompliance and are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser, be submitted to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration not later than 5 days after they are initially sent to manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or purchasers. This copy shall be separate from the copies provided under 49 CFR Part 573.8, "Notices, bulletins, and other communications."

Sincerely,

Original signed by
James P. Talentino

James P. Talentino, Chief
Defect Identification Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

NHTSA:NEF:ODI
PWALLACE:kjs:9-3-91
Assign to: Powertrain
cc: NEF-111 Subj/Wkg. File
NEF-12 R. Young (EA90-040)
Document #25071

INFLUENCED RECALL CAMPAIGNS

NAME OF MANUFACTURER: Mercedes Benz

RECALL CAMPAIGN NUMBER: 91V-137

ACTION THAT INFLUENCED RECALL:

FE: _____

EA: 90-040/R. Young

CASE: _____

CIR: _____

OTHER: _____

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
§ 573.5

91V-137 (1)

(c) (1) **Manufacturer Mercedes-Benz, AG**

Manufacturer's Agent
Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc.
One Mercedes Dr.
Montvale, N.J. 07645

Submission Date:
Date Reviewed:
Campaign No.: 91-0913
Campaign Date: Not yet
available

(c) (2) (i) Identification of Vehicles:

Model	VIN Prefix	No. of Vehicles
190E2.3	WDBDA23	56,783
190E2.3	WDBDA28	18,789
190E2.6	WDBDA29	3,922
190E2.3-16	WDBDA34	2,284
190D2.2	WDBDB22	9,902
190D2.5	WDBDB26	3,521
190D2.5TURBO	WDBDB28	1,340
TOTAL		96,541

Registration Year: 1984 through 1988
Production Period: August 1983 through December 1987

(c) (3) No. of Vehicles: 96,541

(c) (4) Percent potentially containing defect: 100%

(c) (5) Description of Defect:

When lifting the parking brake lever by the pronounced "nose" of the original grip it is possible to distort the grip and "pinch" the brake release knob. If the release knob sticks in a very specific partial engage/release position due to binding in the grip, the potential exists for the lever to release unintentionally with a corresponding reduction in parking brake application force.

However, even in the event of unintended parking brake release, a rollaway is unlikely. Properly parked automatic transmission cars will be held stationary by the parking pawl in the transmission. Properly parked manual transmission cars will be held stationary by engine compression in first or reverse gear, except on steep grades.

(c) (6) Chronology:

The results of Mercedes-Benz AG's recent investigation of complaints potentially related to unintended parking brake release have been communicated to NHTSA through responses to information requests in DP90-009 and EA90-040, as well as in meetings with NHTSA.

(c) (8) Remedy:

Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc. will recall 96,541 vehicles to replace the parking brake lever grip with a grip of the type introduced in production in December of 1987.

This recall, part of a worldwide campaign, will be initiated when the necessary parts are available, most probably in early November, 1991.

↑
Jon - Wheel's
the latest
this? on
JMT

to the recall will be furnished as
any questions please contact:
Product Regulation and Compliance.



91V 137

REC'D

Mercedes-Benz

81 AUG 26 1991

Mercedes-Benz
of North America, Inc.

OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

August 23, 1991

Mr. William A. Boehly, Acting Director
Office of Defects Investigation Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Room 5321
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: Recall Campaign MBNA Number 91-0913
Replacement of Parking Brake Grip - 190 Model

Dear Mr. Boehly:

This is to advise you that the DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT attached to our letter of August 19, 1991 contains a typographical error that needs to be corrected. Under (c)(2)(i) Identification of Vehicles:, the VIN Prefix for the 190E2.3 should be WDBDA24 not WDBDA23.

Enclosed please find a corrected version of the report.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Sincerely,

Harald Polz, Manager
Product Regulation and Compliance

Enc.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

§ 573.5

(c) (1) **Manufacturer Mercedes-Benz, AG**

Manufacturer's Agent

Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc.
One Mercedes Dr.
Montvale, N.J. 07645

Submission Date:
Date Reviewed:
Campaign No.: 91-0913
Campaign Date: Not yet
available

(c) (2) (i) **Identification of Vehicles:**

Model	VIN Prefix	No. of Vehicles
190E2.3	WDBDA24	56,783
190E2.3	WDRDA28	18,789
190E2.6	WDBDA29	3,922
190E2.3-16	WDBDA34	2,284
190D2.2	WDBDB22	9,902
190D2.5	WDBDB26	3,521
190D2.5TURBO	WDBDB28	1,340
TOTAL		96,541

Registration Year: 1984 through 1988
Production Period: August 1983 through December 1987

(c) (3) **No. of Vehicles:** 96,541

(c) (4) **Percent potentially containing defect:** 100%

(c) (5) **Description of Defect:**

When lifting the parking brake lever by the pronounced "nose" of the original grip it is possible to distort the grip and "pinch" the brake release knob. If the release knob sticks in a very specific partial engage/release position due to binding in the grip, the potential exists for the lever to release unintentionally with a corresponding reduction in parking brake application force.

However, even in the event of unintended parking brake release, a rollaway is unlikely. Properly parked automatic transmission cars will be held stationary by the parking pawl in the transmission. Properly parked manual transmission cars will be held stationary by engine compression in first or reverse gear, except on steep grades.

(c) (6) **Chronology:**

The results of Mercedes-Benz AG's recent investigation of complaints potentially related to unintended parking brake release have been communicated to NHTSA through responses to information requests in DP90-009 and EA90-040, as well as in meetings with NHTSA.

(c) (8) **Remedy:**

Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc. will recall 96,541 vehicles to replace the parking brake lever grip with a grip of the type introduced in production in December of 1987.

This recall, part of a worldwide campaign, will be initiated when the necessary parts are available, most probably in early November, 1991.

(c) (9)

Copies of notices that relate to the recall will be furnished as soon as possible. If you have any questions please contact: Mr. Harald Polz, Manager, Product Regulation and Compliance. (201-573-2629).

RECEIVED



Mercedes-Benz

91 OCT 16 AM 11:15

Mercedes-Benz
of North America, Inc.

OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

October 10, 1991

Mr. William A. Boehly, Acting Director
Office of Defects Investigation Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Room 5321
400 Seventh Street, S. W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

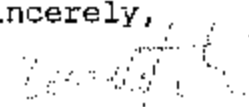
Subject: Recall Campaign MBNA Number 91-0913
NHTSA Number 91V-137
Replacement of Parking Brake Grip - 190 Model

Dear Mr. Boehly:

Enclosed are three copies of the dealer campaign bulletin which contain the dealer notification letter, repair instructions, warranty instructions and owner letter in English and Spanish. The Spanish language letter is sent to owners with an address in Puerto Rico.

The dealer notification was sent on October 8, 1991. The owner letter was mailed on October 10, 1991.

Sincerely,


Harald Polz, Manager
Product Regulation
and Compliance

HP:kg

91V-137

FILE: SERVICE: GROUP 00 OF SERVICE INFORMATION BINDER
PARTS: GROUP I OF INFORMATION - PARTS & ACCESSORIES BINDER

Campaign No. 91-0913

October 1991

TO: OUR MERCEDES-BENZ PASSENGER CAR DEALERS

SUBJECT: MODEL 201
REPLACEMENT OF PARKING BRAKE GRIP

Enclosed is a sample copy of a letter which all owners of vehicles within the Effective Serial Number Range on page 2 will receive in the near future.

This campaign is initiated because MBNA has found that the grip for the parking brake lever in the subject vehicles produced up to the end of 1987, under certain conditions, can pinch and hold the release knob while the lever is being raised to apply the parking brake. When the release knob is pinched by the grip, it can prevent complete engagement of the parking brake mechanism.

As of the beginning of 1988, a modified grip is installed with greater play in the release knob area (arrow, Figure 1), effectively preventing the grip from pinching the release knob when raising the parking brake lever.

The modified parking brake grip must be installed in all vehicles built prior to the beginning of 1988 within the Effective Serial Number Range on page 2.

Note: To avoid duplicate claims, we urge you to perform a VMI (Vehicle Master Inquiry) to determine if the campaign is still shown as outstanding for a particular vehicle.

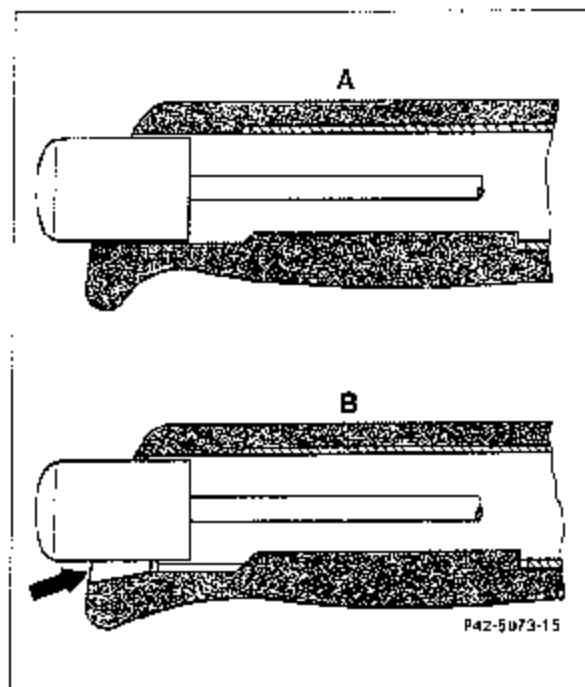


Figure 1

A Grip installed up to end of 1987

B Grip installed as of beginning of 1988

Effective Serial Number Range

Model	Chassis End Number	
	From	To
201.024 (up to 7/31/83)	0 000001	0 045803
	2 000001	2 045803
201 (from 8/1/83)	A 000001	A 427637
	F 000001	F 456456

Procedure

1. Remove old grip from parking brake lever by twisting slightly and pulling off. Make sure that the cover on the lever stays clipped onto the hook of the lever.
2. Without using any lubricant, push new grip onto lever by twisting it back and forth until grip almost reaches stop on plastic cover of hand brake lever.
3. Using the old grip as an aid, drive new grip onto lever until it reaches the stop.

Parts Information

Part Name	Part Number
Parking brake lever grip	201 427 G4 20

In order to insure parts availability during start-up (approx. one month), we request that your order quantities coincide with your weekly workshop throughput, i.e. if you average 50 weekly appointments, order 50 - 60 pieces.

Priority no. 4 orders can be placed, however, the 5% stock discount and 3% obsolescence accrual do not apply.

Warranty Claim Submission Information

Operation: Inspect parking brake lever grip version installed (Repair code 10)

Replace parking brake lever grip (Repair code 11)

Note: Only ONE repair code applies.

Campaign No.	Damage Code	Repair Code	Time
91-0913	42 930 04	10	0.1 hrs.
		11	0.2 hrs.



Mercedes-Benz

October 10, 1991

Mercedes-Benz
of North America, Inc.

Dear Mercedes-Benz 190 Model Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc. has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in 1984 to mid-1988 Registration Year Mercedes-Benz 190 Class cars. Our records indicate that you own a vehicle within the affected serial number range.

The grip for the parking brake lever in these vehicles, under certain conditions, can pinch and hold the release knob while the lever is being raised to apply the parking brake. When the release knob is pinched by the grip it can prevent complete engagement of the parking brake mechanism. This means that, in extreme cases, the vehicle may be parked with the parking brake only partially engaged. Vibrations and other outside influences might then cause the parking brake lever to release unintentionally.

Properly parked automatic transmission cars will be held stationary in "P" as recommended in your owner's manual. Properly parked manual transmission cars will be held stationary in first or reverse gear, as recommended in your owner's manual, except on steep grades.

Please contact your nearest authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer for an appointment to have the grip on your vehicle replaced free of charge. We are sorry to inconvenience you, but it is important for safety to have the new grip installed. Replacement of the old grip with the new one will require less than 15 minutes.

Until your vehicle receives the new grip, please continue to follow the recommendations for proper parking described in your owner's manual. Also, if the button stays depressed when the parking brake lever is set, release the lever and apply it again so that the button pops out. This will avoid the possibility of vehicle rollaway.

Should you have any questions or difficulty regarding the grip replacement, a list of Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc. Regional Offices and other important information is printed on the reverse side of this letter.

Again, we apologize for any inconvenience this service causes you.

Product and Service Engineering
Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc.

Approved: [Signature] Date: 10/10/91
Product Engineering

Approved: [Signature] Date: 10/10/91
Product Engineering

Approved: [Signature] Date: 10/10/91
Product Engineering

Approved: [Signature] Date: 10/10/91
Product Engineering

Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc. 12345 Main Street, Suite 100, New York, NY 10001

Should you have any questions or encounter any difficulty regarding the grip replacement, please contact the Regional Office (Owner Service Department) nearest to you for quick and efficient assistance.

Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc.
Regional Corporate Offices

NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc.
Baltimore Commons Business Park
1300 Mercedes Drive (2nd Floor)
Harmans, MD 21076-0348
Telephone: (301) 859-9160 OWNER SERVICE DEPT.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc.
8813 Western Way
P.O.Box 17604
Jacksonville, FL 32245-7604
Telephone: (904) 443-2100 OWNER SERVICE DEPT.

NORTHCENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE

Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc.
3333 Charles Street
Franklin Park, IL 60131-1469
Telephone: (708) 288-3000 OWNER SERVICE DEPT.

WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc.
P.O.Box 93637
6357 Sunset Blvd.
Hollywood, CA 90093-0637
Telephone: (213) 468-3000 OWNER SERVICE DEPT.

If your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer or Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc. fails or is unable to replace the grip without charge, you may, in accordance with the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590 or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 800-424-9393 (Washington, D.C. area residents may call (202) 426-0123).



Octubre 10, 1991

Maurice Bonz

**Mercedes-Benz
of North America, Inc.**

Estimado Propietario de un Mercedes-Benz Modelo 190:

_____ is a _____ in _____

Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc.
Oficinas Regionales

NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc.
Baltimore Commons Business Park
1300 Mercedes Drive (2nd Floor)
Harmans, MD 21076-0348
Telephone: (301) 859-9160 OWNER SERVICE DEPT.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc.
8813 Western Way
P.O.Box 17604
Jacksonville, FL 32245-7604
Telephone: (904) 443-2100 OWNER SERVICE DEPT.

NORTHCENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE

Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc.
3333 Charles Street
Franklin Park, IL 60131-1469
Telephone: (708) 288-300 OWNER SERVICE DEPT.

WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc.
P.O.Box 93637
6357 Sunset Blvd.
Hollywood, Ca 90093-0637
Telephone: (213) 468-3000 OWNER SERVICE DEPT.

Si Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc., o su Agente Distribuidor fallan en proveer asistencia o no pueden reemplazar esta pieza sin costo adicional para usted, de acuerdo con el "National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act", por favor dirigirse al Administrador, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20590 o comunicarse al numero de telefono: 800-424-9393. Los residentes del area de Washington pueden comunicarse al numero: (202)426-0123.

91V-137

CDI RESUME

INVESTIGATION: EA90-040

DATE CLOSED: 30-AUG-91

SUBJECT: Parking Brake

PROMPTED BY: Petition DP90-009

INVESTIGATOR: J. Robert Young

MFR: Mercedes Benz

MODEL(5): All 190s

MODEL YR: Aug. '83 thru Dec. '87 Production

Subject population: 96,541

SYNOPSIS: Parking brake lever arbitrarily releases from the "set" position.

BASIS:	FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY		
	ODI	MANUFACTURER	TOTAL
COMPLAINTS:	3	24	27
ACCIDENTS:	2	8	10*
INJ ACCID:	0	0	0
# INJURIES:	0	0	0
FAT ACCID:	0	0	0
# FATALS:	0	0	0

DESCRIPTION OF *: All are property damage accidents.

ACTION: Mercedes recall 91V-137 received August 20, 1991. This investigation is closed.

BENCH CTR *H. Reinhardt* ^{FR} DIV CTR *John Young*Acting OFC CTR *H. Reinhardt*8/29/918/29/918/30/91

DATE

DATE

DATE

SUMMARY: Partial engagement of the parking brake lever locking pawl can occur when the lever is lifted by applying force to the "nose" of the lever grip (see diagram). When so applied, the nose will collapse around the release button preventing its movement and thus preventing full engagement of the locking pawl. CDI testing confirmed that less than full engagement of the locking pawl can result in lever release and, if the vehicle is not parked in gear (manual transmissions) or Park (automatics), vehicle rollaway. Mercedes will replace the grip on all 190 series vehicles produced prior to January, 1988 with the current design grip (introduced in January, 1988) incorporating a larger hole for the release button to prevent pinching. CDI field testing has confirmed that the new grip design will prevent release button pinching.

Release Button

Grip

Pinch Point

Nose